

ISSUES FACING ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
Protecting Civil Rights	<p>YES</p> <p>Democrats introduced the End Racial Profiling Act of 2004, which would prohibit racial profiling at all levels of law enforcement -- federal, state, and local. It conditions law enforcement grants on adoption of policies that prohibit racial profiling, authorizes grants for best policing practices, and requires the Attorney General to provide periodic reports on profiling practices</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>After September 11th, there has been a 1600% increase in hate crimes against Americans of South Asian, Sikh, and Middle Eastern descent.</p>
Fair and Safe Immigration Policy	<p>YES</p> <p>Democrats proposed the Safe, Orderly, Legal Visas Enforcement Act of 2004 to provide meaningful pathways to citizenship and permanent residency for immigrants who are working hard and paying taxes. It addresses the backlog of millions of family-based immigration requests.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>AAPIs currently face an immigration backlog that has forced some immigrants to wait as long as twenty years to rejoin their families.</p>
High Quality Health Care	<p>YES</p> <p>Democrats recognize that too often racial and ethnic minorities are denied the high quality health care that most Americans receive. The Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003 would expand health care coverage, remove language and cultural barriers, improve workforce diversity, improve data collection, promote accountability, and strengthen institutions that serve minority populations.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>410,000 AAPIs lost health insurance under the current Republican leadership. More than 2.2 million AAPIs do not have health care coverage. Of the Asian American communities, Korean Americans have the greatest number of uninsured.</p>

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Prosperity / Economy	<p>YES</p> <p>Democrats have proposed legislation that will spur job creation through a new jobs tax credit, invest in education and job training, and enact tax incentives for businesses that create jobs for the long-term unemployed.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>There has been no action on job creation, despite 334,000 AAPIs are looking for work. AAPI household income has dropped by nearly \$4,000 and 40,000 more AAPIs fell into poverty in the past year.</p>
Assistance for Small Business	<p>YES</p> <p>House Democrats' small business package will make capital more accessible to small business and assist small business start-ups -- succeeding this year in restoring funding for the 7(a) loan program, and for microloans. We are also fighting to lower costs, expand health coverage for small business, and expand opportunities for small business by opening up the federal marketplace and foreign markets for small business.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>There are more than 900,000 AAPI owned small businesses, but the Bush Administration cut funding for the Small Business Administration by \$79 million this year alone. Nearly 30% of Asian owned businesses are owned by Chinese Americans.</p>
Opportunity / Education	<p>YES</p> <p>Democrats are fighting to expand access to college by making tuition tax deductible up to \$12,000 per year for middle-class families. Democrats have also introduced legislation to support AAPI-Serving Institutions.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Despite nationwide increases in the cost of college, the Bush Administration has frozen funding for Pell Grants and cut funding for Perkins loans by nearly \$100 million. This particularly affect South East Asians, who have the lowest education attainment level of any group.</p>
Keeping Our Promise To Our Veterans	<p>YES</p> <p>Democrats have introduced legislation to provide full equity to Filipino Veterans. Democrats have also called for full funding of veteran's health care.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Republicans have failed to fully fund veterans' health care, refused to end the Disabled Veterans Tax, and failed to end the Widow's Tax, which slashes survivor benefits for thousands of military spouses just when they need it most. There are 351,000 AAPI veterans, 57,000 of whom are of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage.</p>